Ms.A.9.2.20.61

Sept 16th
E. Quincy
A. S. matters
1844

Boston Sept. 16. 1844.

My Dear Caroline:

I thank you heartily for the letter I found here this morning & thank God for the good news it contains. I most sincerely & truly sympathise & rejoice with your happiness as I truly sympathised & suffered with you in your alarm & anxiety. I was much relieved by the note Mr. Annis was kind enough to send me on Friday morning & by the intelligence up to that morning that Mrs. Q. brought to me from Chauncy Place ~~that~~ afternoon. Had I not heard, I had made up my mind to drive over to Weymouth to learn from some of yourselves the true state of the case — as I could not think of going for ~~three~~ whole days without any intelligence. As it was, however, I felt encouraged & assured that I should hear still better tidings on my return from the Milford Meeting. As I suppose you are now sufficiently relieved from suspense & anxiety to hear of other things I will proceed to give you such a brief account as I can before Mr. Hall calls for his despatches.

On Saturday morning, accordingly, I arose at an early hour & was conveyed by true Thomas & trusty Bob to the Dedham Station where I was to take the cars. My fear of being left had made me so punctual ~~that I~~ I had the pleasure of spending ~~half~~ an hour in the Depôt & of learning by heart the various affiches on the walls. I whiled away part of the time by writing on the envelope of a ~~piece~~ paper of court plaister - a foot-note for my article on Birney. I thought it good and so I think it would have been considered, had it not turned out that it wanted the trifling ingredient of truth. This would probably been no objection to my hero - but I felt forced to endeavour to recover the good opinion of W. H. Burleigh who you will see shortly thinks I tell altogether more lies than are absolutely necessary. However, that it may not be wholly lost I will write it down from memory. It was to be appended to the sentence that says that, C. M. Clay, Palfrey &c had all? no generous augmentation to their names for emancipating their slaves free to serve in this wise" *. I have not time to enter into the question of how far the sale of his slave Charles by Mr. Birney after he had made a public confession of his conviction of the sinfulness of holding & treating men as property, should impair his claim to the title of "the Saint"; the fact I believe is admitted on all hands. I am not aware that Mr. B. has explained the act or made any apology for it. Mr. Leavitt indeed, has confessed & humbled himself before all the people for Mr. B's sins! Whether or not this vicarious repentance may be received as satisfaction for Mr. B's guilt, I am not theologian enough to determine." Unluckily Garrison told me when I read it to him, that Birney had made confession & expressed contrition, such as it was, in 1836 in a letter to the N. Y. Com. Adv. - so my note fell noteless into the dark inane. On arriving at Framingham I found that there was not omnibus to take me to Milford as I had hoped & paid - so had to take a ~~horse~~ separate conveyance. I had for my companion no less eminent a person ~~that~~ than the *Rev. Lebbeus C. Beman*, who was bound on an 3d party errand, I fellowed to Holliston half way to M. I will do *that nigger* the justice to say that he showed none of his *sauce*. I said nothing to him & he said nothing to me. I never had any personal acquaintance with him so I treated him as I would any other chance fellow traveller, excepting ~~that~~ I did not say anything to him. At Holliston I paid a flying visit to the excellent Hiram A. Morse whom I found predominating over the multifarious contents of a country store. I was in hopes ~~that~~ he would take me on my way, but as he could not — but told me that Garrison had just passed with Mr. Jackson & Mr. & Mrs. Mann I hurried on & soon overtook them. They took me into their wagon & we reached the scene of action just as the holy bell was bawling the people into the Church. The meeting was held in the Orthodox M. H. of which *Goodenow*, the man who made the famous speech in Marlboro' Chapel, after which he fled amain before the angel face of St. Stephen the martyr, is the priest. It was got in spite of him. It was entirely filled in the morning — the fullest one I think ~~that~~ I ever saw before dinner. Mr. Jackson was put into the chair & *the friend Cyrus* (who ~~was~~ has been staying some time thereabouts) made Sec'y. Garrison brought in some general set of resolutions on which we talked in morning. We adj'd early & went to the Fair which was held in the Acad'y Hall next door, while a dinner was provided at 25 cents a head in the room below. The *fair* above was not in many particulars unlike the *fare* below. Eating constituted the chief business of the one as well as of the other. I do not think that the doings of the famous ~~day~~ feast at Upton could have surpassed the eating of that day. I never saw greater evidences of unflinching devotion to the cause. Indeed, I think that many counted their lives as nothing in the service. If their zeal had not "eaten them up" as it did the Psalmist (was it he?) of old, at least it made them eat a great many other things up, which I daresay did quite as well. If they did not die for the cause's sake — they, at least, dined most intrepidly for it. Pretty Polly was there, of course, displaying the tea-dipper in an uncommonly smart striped silk (it may have been calico, however) and a pink cap with rosettes & she was full of zeal & good sense as usual. She sent her love to Anne & expressed her hope that she would come to the next Fair at Upton, which she is incontinently going to get up. She told me that she had left her church & had experienced much persecution & trial — but had been strengthened by her afflictions. I spoke a good word for the Am. Soc. as to the disposition of the funds. The final arrangement however was ~~that~~ it was all to go to the Mass. Treasury, with a request to pay $50. — to the Liberator — wh. of course met with my warm approbation. In the aftn. we talked on the general subject of Disunion & Sam spoke very well. In the evg. we had a crowded house & went at the Constitution. I opened the question in a speech of about an hour, being the first I ever made on the subject. A Liberty Party Shoemaker undertook to reply — but it amounted to very little. Garrison ended off with a speech in which he contrived to bring in all his peculiarities - no Church - no ministry - no human gov't &c &c. And when it was proposed to adjourn till the next day, by way of Postscript he gave them his views on the Sabbath & Temple Worship. However, they took it all very quietly & he was in high feather. Garrison & I drank tea that night at a Mrs Godfrey's, a young married lady, who seems to be a very zealous & intelligent Abolitionist of recent manufacture - being one of Abby Kelley's jewels. Mr G. is a Whig Abolitionist - determined to vote for Clay - but a friendly person. He it was that got us the Orthodox M. H. in spite of Goodman, by telling the Com. that if we could not have it he should withdraw. He is a Unitarian but goes there for respectability's sake, and as he is one of the first gentlemen of property & standing they succumbed to him. Mrs G. I should think a very suitable person for Maria to put herself into communication with about the Fair. She is quite pretty withal - which it becomes every woman to be, if possibly she can. The next day, being the Lord's Day, we held our Meeting in a grove, as, though we had the Universalist M. H., it would contain but a small part of the audience. This M. H. was got for us by the Minister, Davis, a fine fellow, who told his Soc'y that if they did not let us have it he would never enter it again. He was at all the meetings, taking money at the door of the Fair, & working in the grove with his coat off when we arrived. He seemed an excellent man & intelligent Abolitionist - & I think has the making of a good Abolitionist Agent at some future time. ~~&~~ I must ston to take the afternoon cars. Rendes Hall is expected every moment. No more now!

Let me hear as you have opportunity how Lucia gets on — especially if there be any unfavorable change, which I do not fear, however.

Miss Caroline Weston
Weymouth.
Mass.

Farewell: God bless you! I will try to send the rest tomorrow. Love to all.

Ever yours
Edmund Quincy.

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